(v) Issuing of any commission for the examination of any witness; and

(vi) any other matter which may be prescribed.

Exploitation by traders in weight and measures of LPG cylinders, kerosene etc.

@1461. SHRI VITHALBHAI M. PATEL : Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that consumers are being exploited in weight and measures of essential commodities including *LPG cylinders, kerosene* etc.;

(b) what steps Government are taking to protect consumers from the exploitation by the dishonest traders; and

(c) how many traders have been punished for exploiting consumers in weight and measures etc. during last five years ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED) : (a) and (b) Procedure has been laid down to ensure correctness of weight of LPG cylinders at the bottling plants. The distributors are also under instructions to check the seal and weight of the cylinders at their godowns prior to delivering the same to customers. As and when specific complaints|about sale of under-weight cylinders are received. LPG marketing companies take appropriate action against dealers under the Marketing Discipline Guidelines. The State Governments also take action through their Weights and Measures Departments against irregularities and violation of the provisions of law, in the sale and distribution of kerosene oil and LPG.

(c) Information is being collected from the States|UTs who are responsible for enforcement, and will be placed on the Table of the House.

Coverage of PDS

1462. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA : Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 2306 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 15th March, 1993 and state :

(a) what is the total number of persons covered under the PDS in the country; and

(b) what are the salient features of new Public Distribution System and how does it differ from the old one ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED) : (a) and (b) As per the present policy of the Central Government, the Public Distribution System (PDS) is universal and the operational responsibility for implementing the PDS rests with the State Governments|UT Administrations. Decisions regarding issue of ration cards to consumers, eligibility criteria, laying down procedures and regulatory measures thereto are taken by the State Governments|UT Administrations. Central Government has advised the States|UTs to make efforts to issue ration cards to all bonafide resident householders both in rural and urban areas. While the PDS in the country is by and large functioning satisfactorily, the Central Government after discussion with the States|UTs took the initiative to revamp the PDS for improving the reach of the PDS to

@Previously Unstarred Question No. 1203, transferred from the 5th May, 1993.